

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 34, Number 07

July 2009



REMEMBER THESE DATES:

July 11, 2009 is the 15th anniversary of the death of Dr. Gary Arlen Kildall. He was the *real* "Father of the Personal Computer Revolution", the true progenitor of all things now credited to another. (See *Lest We Forget* in the September 2007 ACGNJ News).

July 31, 2009 is the 10th Annual System Administrator Appreciation Day. Send your Sysadmin a bouquet of flowers and maybe some candy. (Unless you *want* your network connection to go down at the worst possible moment). For further details, go to:
<http://www.sysadminday.com>



<http://www.acgnj.org>

Founded 1975

ACGNJ HAS SUMMER ACTIVITIES!

While half of our club shuts down for the summer, the other half *doesn't*. Six of our Special Interest Groups have meetings scheduled. When you're not "catching some rays" or "riding the wild surf", maybe you might consider attending a few of them. Have you been curious about one or more of the SIGs below, but just haven't found the time to "drop in"? This could be the opportunity you've been looking for. Then, there's our annual Planning Meeting in August. In many ways, this can be considered our most important public meeting of the year. You want to affect the direction the club is taking? That's where it happens.

Have a great summer, full of fun, adventure and relaxation; and computer stuff *too*!

ACGNJ Reduced Summer Schedule:

July 6, August 3 (Monday) Lunics (Linux/UNIX) 8:00 PM.
July 9, August 13 (Thurs) Computerized Investing 8:00 PM.
July 10, August 14 (Friday) NJ Gamers 6:00 PM.
July 14, August 11 (Tuesday) Java 7:30 PM.
July 20, August 17 (Monday) Firefox 8:00 PM.
July 23, August 27 (Thursday) Hardware Activity 8:00 PM.
August 21 (Friday) Planning Meeting 7:00 PM.

Please note: By its very nature, a summer schedule is even shakier than usual. Before you leave, please check the club web site (www.acgnj.org) for last-minute cancellations.

(For further details, see *Brief SIG Information* on page 3).

Bug Alert!

Please test the blue live links on this page. E-mail me at bob.hawes@acgnj.org *only* if they *don't* work, and tell me the Operating System your computer is using.

Thank you.

In This Issue

About This Issue	3
Brief SIG Information	3
The Last Amendment, <i>Bob Hawes</i>	4
About the Constitution	9
New ACGNJ Constitution	9

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Tips for reviewers: Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it?

Advertising: Non-commercial announcements from members are free. Commercial ads 15 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Camera ready display ads: Full page (7 x 10 inches) \$150, two-thirds page (4x x 10) \$115, half-page \$85, one-third \$57, quarter \$50, eighth \$30. Discount 10% on 3 or more consecutive insertions. Enclose payment.

Publication Exchange: Other computer user groups are invited to send their publications to ACGNJ. We will respond in kind.

Address Changes should be e-mailed to membership@acgnj.org, or sent to ACGNJ at the PO Box below.

Membership: 1 year \$25, 2 years \$40, 3 years \$55. Student or Senior Citizen (over 65): 1 year \$20, 3 years \$45. Additional family members, \$10 each per year. Send name, e-mail address, street address and payment to ACGNJ, PO Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076.

Typographic Note: This ACGNJ News was produced using Scribus 1.3.3.12. Font families used are Times New Roman (TT) for body text, Arial (TT) for headlines.

E-Mail Addresses

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About This Issue

This PDF file is laid out in an experimental double column/half page format, designed to virtually eliminate “jumping around” on a full size computer screen. Ideally, you could read the whole document, from top to bottom, using *just* the page-down key. Please let us know what you think of this concept. Now, let's talk about the computer program that I used to make it: Scribus.

It's been about *fifteen years* since I last created a newsletter, using good old DOS desktop publishing software. Then, just about a year ago, I discovered Scribus; and I fell in love with it immediately. It's a fun, fabulous, and *free* desktop publisher. What's not to love? Well, recently I found something. As you might assume from the *Bug Alert* on page 1, there's trouble with some of my hyperlinks. I'm not going to say anything more about my specific problems here, because I need you to send me fresh, unbiased descriptions of any difficulties you might encounter; but I will tell you that I'm extremely disappointed. I was really looking forward to producing two summer issues of ACGNJ News all

by myself (though Barbara, our editor, *will* get to give each one a final review before publication); and I wanted them to be *perfect*. Now, my July and August newsletters can only be considered beta versions at best.

To ease my despair, I've been thinking of them as if they were printed issues. (Indeed, since half of their reason for existence is to provide permanent reference copies of our new Constitution and By-Laws, there may very well *be* hard copies made). In that case, you'd have to manually type any links into your browser before you could follow them. So maybe this isn't such a big deal, after all.

However, since the *other* half reason is to publish our schedule of July meetings, I can't delay releasing this newsletter while I search for a fix. Maybe I'll find something before August. I'll tell you then.

Anyway, please let me know what you think of this issue in general, the half page format in particular, and any bugs you notice. (My club e-mail address is bob.hawes@acgnj.org). All in all, I had fun making it; and it's *definitely* been a learning experience.

Brief SIG Information

(see www.acgnj.org for additional details)

Computerized Investing features presentations and instructions on learning, selecting and using various charting and technical analysis software. The object, of course, being profitable investment. Meetings are generally "free flow", following whatever questions come from the group. Primary focus is on Telechart and Tradestation; but users of other software and platforms are very welcome. Jim Cooper (jim@thecoopers.org).

Firefox is an open forum for all Firefox and Mozilla techniques and technologies, to encourage the study and development of web sites of all kinds. David McRichie (firefox@acgnj.org).

Hardware is a newly-formed group dedicated to repairing, refurbishing and/or recycling older computers. Mike Reagan (hardware@acgnj.org).

Java covers beginner, intermediate, and advanced level Java programming. Primary focus is on developing useful/practical applets and applications. The July meeting is reserved for annual user group

planning, and the August meeting is reserved for special projects. Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net).

Lunics is a group for those who share an interest in Linux or other Unix-like operating systems (such as BSD and Solaris). Recent meetings have followed a Random Access format. Andreas Meyer (lunics@acgnj.org).

NJ Gamers sessions go for *eighteen* hours, with a \$5.00 admission charge. Bring-Your-Own-Computer, Bring-Your-Own-Food, and (if you want to be comfortable) Bring-Your-Own-Chair. Gregg McCarthy (greggmc@optonline.net).

Planning Meeting: This year is especially important. The club's future, indeed its very survival, could be in the balance. Plus, it's a dinner meeting, so there'll be *Free Food!* But there's a catch. If you attend, you have to bring two possible meeting topics with you. For further information, and instructions on how to RSVP, see:

<http://www.acgnj.org/pm/pma.html>

The Last Amendment

Bob Hawes (bob.hawes@acgnj.org), ACGNJ

The title of this article is, of course, a twist on the good old First Amendment to the US Constitution. (I love silly word play). However, this *isn't* the first time I've used it for a newsletter article. The first one (dated January 24th 2009, submitted January 25th) was never used because our attorney sent us back **eighteen** further suggested amendments. (I can hear some nit-picker complaining; "What's this? On page one of the April newsletter, you said **fifteen**, and in your *Two Days in May* article in the June issue, you said **seventeen**. Which is right?" Well, **all** of them, actually. As we'll see **much** further below, it would depend on the date when you asked the question). Before we get to that, though, I'm going to include that **entire** first article. (Not only because once I've gone through all the work of typing something into the computer, I **hate** not using it; but also because I, at least, still think it's interesting). I've also added updated information (in red print) wherever I felt it was warranted. So here goes:

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using OpenOffice.org Writer; and in my opinion, at least, it came out rather well. I plan to repeat the experiment on another subject someday, using Scribus, my new desktop publisher. I think I could create a presentation that would be indistinguishable from something made by that ubiquitous program whose name begins with a "P", except for animated effects. That lack wouldn't bother me, since I consider animation to be a "toy" rather than a "tool". (Don't get me wrong. I **like** toys; but for play, not work). (As you may already know, I **have**, in fact, produced a few more PDF presentations; but so far, all of them were made with OpenOffice.org).

The trouble is, that PDF file was intended to be shown only to our Board of Directors, with me providing spoken commentary. It was a work in progress, containing notes for some "final" revisions; and I never intended for anybody else to get a copy. Unfortunately, when our October 28th (2008) Special Board Meeting was canceled due to inclement weather, I had to send e-mail copies to all of our Board members. From there, it was "leaked" to the general membership. While we tried to hold a computer-connected virtual Board Meeting on

The ~~Next-To-Last~~ Amendment

After this issue, hopefully, we won't have to worry about By-Laws again for the foreseeable future; but currently (as I write this, not necessarily as you read it), there are **seven** versions out there, and they're **all** wrong. Six are posted on the Internet, with three purporting to contain our revised Constitution and three our revised By-Laws. (Each set has identical contents but three different file formats). Finally (though it is, in fact, **older** than the other files), there's one color-coded PDF file containing copies of both. (Later, the total grew to **nine** versions (eight on the Internet), **all** now incorrect in some way).

I'm quite proud of that last file. It was an attempt to use a PDF file to give a presentation, thus eliminating the need for any specialized software. (In the very rare case of a computer not already possessing a PDF reader, I could quickly install either Adobe or Foxit, then just as easily remove it when I was done). I produced that particular file

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November 3rd, we didn't get a quorum. So the By-Laws had to be squeezed in with all the other business at our regularly-scheduled Board Meeting on November 4th.

At that meeting, I got a lot more last-minute contributions from the Board than I expected; which I considered to be a **good** thing. It showed that some people, at least, were still interested. After that, according to the rules, we had to post copies of the amended Constitution and By-Laws on the club website **before** the November 7th Main Meeting; so that everybody would have a month for study and reflection. As indicated above, in what was probably overkill, we wound up doing three versions of each. Unfortunately, after we'd posted those "even more final" revisions, I ran into even more typos. **Thirty-five** of which had actually been caused by me personally. (Thirteen in the Constitution, twenty-two in the By-Laws).

Now, at that point in time (again according to the rules), it was already **too late** for the By-Laws Revision Committee to make any further changes; but not for me on my own. In addition to voting to approve or reject the revised By-Laws and

The Last Amendment, *continued*

Constitution, any member could also submit his or her own amendments as a motion “from the floor”. That’s what I did at the December 5th Annual Meeting. (Though I had, in fact, discussed the contents of my intended motion with the Board at the December 2nd Board Meeting). Both the “official” revisions and my last minute amendment were approved.

However, both my discussion with the Board and my motion from the floor had been done orally; and as far as I know, no one wrote anything down. So, until the publication of this newsletter issue, **nobody** had a copy of the “yet again even more final” revisions except me.

All of my proposed changes were “corrections of a typographical nature”, which our committee defined as “affecting how the document **looked**, but not what it said”. Some such “errors” may have been conscious choices that we just don’t agree with anymore, while others might easily have happened accidentally during transcription. Right from the start, we didn’t even try to guess which were which; but instead treated them all as having been validly

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was to change “chief financial officer” to “Chief Financial Officer” in Section 4.7.5 of the By-Laws. The fifth was to insert a comma between “Board” and “presiding” in Section 4.7.1 of the By-Laws. The sixth was to replace a previously unnoticed missing period at the end of Section 4.4 of the By-Laws. **(Further investigation revealed that this period was also missing from the 2001 and 1991 versions; but *was* present in 1981 and 1976).**

Now for the typos I caused myself: First, when we changed all instances of “chairman” to “Chairman”, I missed one in Section 4.7.1 of the By-Laws. Second, when we changed all instances of “officers” to “Officers”, I missed one in Section 5.3 of the By-Laws. Third, when we changed the quorum in Section 4.8.4 of the By-Laws from “Seven” to “Six”, I forgot to also change the “(Revised December 2001)” tag to “(Revised December 2008)”. The other thirty-two all involved center-justified lines. In **every** previous version of the By-Laws or the Constitution, “Title” headings, “Date” headings, and “Article” headings had been centered. Furthermore, most (though **not** all) title fonts had been in Bold.

adopted. We further decided that while such changes **did** have to be submitted to the general membership as part of an amendment (to be approved or rejected in accordance with the rules as set forth in the then-current version of the By-laws), they **didn’t** count as “revisions” in the strictest interpretation of the word. Therefore, any Section receiving only typo changes would **not** get a “(Revised December 2008)” tag. We felt that those tags should be reserved for truly substantial modifications only.

The first “new” typo fix was to change “Directors-At-Large” to “Directors-at-Large”. This affected Sections 4.8.2, 4.8.3 (three times), 4.9.1, 4.9.3 and 5.3 of the By-Laws. (In Section 5.3, the first hyphen was also missing). It also affected Article IV, Section I of the Constitution (twice). The second was to change “nonprofit” to “non-profit”. This affected Sections 1.1 and 2.6 of the By-Laws. (It was **already** spelled that way in Article I, Section I of the Constitution). The third was to change “Quorum” to “quorum” (unless, of course, it started a sentence). This affected Section 4.8.4 of the By-Laws and Article V, Section IV of the Constitution. The fourth

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For my own convenience, I’d converted those lines to left-justified plain text as I was cutting the 2001 revisions into smaller working pieces for our committee’s consideration. When re-assembling the proposed 2008 revisions, unfortunately, I forgot to convert them back. Bowing my head in shame, I’ve done so now.

Finally, we come to something that probably wouldn’t bother anybody except me. As I stated in a previous article (*The Historical Record*, in the December 2008 issue of ACGNJ News), I strongly suspected that the “(Revised Spring 1981)” tag marking Article IV, Section I in both the February 1991 and December 2001 revisions of the Constitution had actually been added in 1991, then back-dated for some unknown and possibly nefarious reason; but I couldn’t prove it. Lacking such proof, I bemoaned having to let what was almost certainly incorrect information be carried forward into the future. More or less immediately after I submitted that article (on or about November 25th, 2008), it occurred to me that although I didn’t have compelling or sufficient cause to change that

The Last Amendment, *continued*

tag, I *did* have a good reason to supersede it entirely. That Section still listed a Corresponding Secretary and a Recording Secretary. In order to provide a sense of “historic flow”, it was the *only* Section in either the Constitution or the By-Laws where we intentionally *didn't* convert those two into a single Secretary. Why not just say that? So, for my last amendment, I replaced “(Revised Spring 1981)” with “(Deliberately Not Revised December 2008)”. That amply suited my purposes. It wiped out the possible inconsistency, adequately described what we did, and (following our usual policy of *not* counting typo changes as revisions) was even true.

By the end of this year, we hope to put out a “Beta” release of the ACGNJ Newsletter Collection on an ultra-reliable, long-lasting *gold* CD. It would be incomplete, but it would contain every issue in our possession up to its creation date. So our first Constitution (dated May, 1976) would be included in the May 1976 newsletter. Our first By-Laws (also dated May, 1976) would be included (half-and-half) in the July and August 1976 newsletters. Our Spring 1981 revisions would be included in the October

1981 newsletter; and our February 1991 revisions would be included in the February 1991 newsletter. When adopted, our December 2001 revisions were posted on the club website but *not* published in the newsletter. However, they'll be included as part of my End-of-Year 2008 Supplement. (I'll have more to say about this still-under-construction Supplement at a later date, possibly next month). Finally, our December 2008 revisions would be included in this issue. Thus, *all* versions of the Constitution and By-laws will always be available for study by future scholars, historians and nit-pickers. (As of this writing, unfortunately, the End-of-Year 2008 Supplement is *still* not done)

Phew! Finished at last. (Boy, did I ever get that part wrong).

Even “Laster” Amendments

Now we get to the eighteen revisions to the By-Laws that were proposed by our lawyer. Mostly, we were prepared to follow her advice; but by looking at four of her suggestions from a different angle, we quickly reduced the total. She had suggested changes for Section 3.3 (Institutional Membership), and Sections

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3.6, 3.7 and 3.9 (each involving various member rights and privileges). Her changes for those last three all involved adding language to include institutions as well as individuals. Instead, we devised an alternative solution that consolidated *all* of her institutional concerns into Section 3.3 alone. If she approved it, Sections 3.6, 3.7 and 3.9 could remain *un*amended, and her change list would be cut down to fifteen. So we sent her back fifteen counter-suggestions, agreeing to nine of her changes; but modifying the other six (Section 3.3 plus five more). As you'll see below, she approved (eventually).

Of those fifteen, two were complete additions, which we assigned as new Sections 9.3 and 9.4. The other thirteen involved existing Sections. Six of those (Sections 3.3, 4.8.2.1, 4.9.1, 4.9.3, 5.7 and 10.1) had just been revised in December 2008; and one (Section 4.6.1) had been newly added at that time. Of the other six, three (Sections 3.4, 3.5, and 4.7.1) hadn't been changed since the February 1991 version, and three (Sections 2.1, 3.8, and 8.1) had *never* been touched since the original May 1976 document. (While Section 3.8 had its *number*

changed in February 1991 (before that, it had been Section 3.6), its *content* hadn't been altered in any way). (Until *now*).

Now let's switch from quantity to quality. Essentially, ten of her modifications were quibbles about words. (That's not to say that they might not be important. In legal matters, a small difference in syntax can mean a *big* difference in the outcome of a lawsuit). Sadly (or maybe, for *you*, happily), we just don't have room to print the entire contents of each Section. However, to give an idea of what was involved, we're going to list just the differences for the ten minor revisions. Unfortunately, we won't be able to list *any* content for the five “biggies”. Anyone wishing to make exact comparisons of complete Sections will have to investigate the sources themselves; and there's a catch: The May 2009 By-Laws are scheduled to be published in our August, 2009 issue (that's *next* month); and, as mentioned above, the End-of-Year 2008 Supplement (which will now contain *both* the December 2001 and the December 2008 By-Laws, and which was *supposed* to be published a few days *before* January

The Last Amendment, *continued*

1st, 2009) hasn't been published yet, either. (Are we consistent, or what?) Anyway, here's the small stuff:

Section 2.1 deleted "Director of the Internal Revenue Service" and replaced it with "governmental authorities". Section 3.4 replaced "The individuals do not have to be members of ACGNJ" with "A candidate for Honorary Membership does not have to be an existing member of ACGNJ", and also replaced "accordingly" with "of Regular Members". Section 3.5 re-worded "Not later than thirty (30) days prior to the effective date for any change in the amount, time, or manner of payment of dues, notice shall be given to all members" to "Notice shall be given to all members not later than thirty (30) days prior to the effective date for any change in the amount, time, or manner of payment of dues". Section 3.8 added "or by amendment of these By-Laws" to its end. Section 4.6.1 deleted the word "permanently" from its first sentence.

Section 4.8.2.1 re-worded "They count as members but not as club Officers for a regular Business Meeting quorum" to "They count as members, but do not count as Officers, to establish a regular

Business Meeting quorum". Section 4.9.1 inserted "If the immediate Past President is unavailable, the President may appoint as Chairman any other club Officer, Director or member who is willing to serve" as a new second sentence; and also deleted the word "regular" from its final sentence. Section 4.9.3 replaced "the President shall declare such individual elected" with "the election shall be by voice vote". Section 5.7 replaced "and may be included in the ACGNJ newsletter" with "At the discretion of the Executive Board, such notice may be sent by electronic mail and/or included in the ACGNJ newsletter". Section 8.1 replaced "Robert's Rules of Order, Revised" with "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised". (For you trivia buffs, this title change was actually made in 1970, five years *before* ACGNJ was founded. It's just that the book we had was even older).

Now for the "biggies". We've already mentioned three of these remaining five amendments: the completely new Section 9.3 (Compensation), as in "no way, no how", the completely new Section 9.4 (Audit), as in "make sure of that"; and the greatly

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modified Section 3.3 (Institutional Membership), which wound up almost tripling in size (from 38 to 104 words). The fourth was Section 4.7.1 (President), which replaced all but 19 of its existing words, then added 105 more. The fifth was Section 10.1 (Indemnification of Officers and Directors), which completely deleted *all* 331 existing words, then added 121 new ones. That's right! There's now absolutely *no* trace left of our original "monster" Section 10.1. Am I the only one feeling wistful?

Let's pause a minute and get our bearings. At this point in our saga, it's late April; and this year's Trenton Computer Festival has just ended. Our attorney has reviewed our By-Laws and sent us eighteen suggestions. We've replied with our fifteen modified counter-proposals; but we haven't yet heard back from her. We've already scheduled the By-Laws vote for May 1st, and we've already messed up by *not* posting our revisions on the club website. (An unfortunate combination of being overwhelmed by last minute TCF details and not, in fact, having a final version to post). Luckily, as mentioned before, there's a work-around. We had planned to introduce

each revised Section as a separate "motion from the floor" on the day of the vote; but now we were wondering if that vote would have to be postponed. Then, at almost literally the last minute, our lawyer came through; sending us a response agreeing to all of our counter-suggestions except for three more minor tweaks (which we, in turn, accepted). Plus, she answered a question.

So, what *was* it that bumped us back up from fifteen to seventeen? In a word; "Trustee". In three of her five "big" suggestions, our attorney had used that word (or its plural) seven times. It made us wonder; "Are we *supposed* to have Trustees?" As far as I can tell, we've *never* used that word before; but as it turns out, the State of New Jersey *does*. As inferred above, we asked her about it, and she said; "The NJ Non-profit Corporate statute uses the language 'trustee'. However, it also defines the term trustee to mean 'any member of the board, whether designated as trustee, director, manager, governor or by any other title'. NJSA 15A: 1-2(i)". Thus, we *have* been covered for the past 34 years. We had changed all of her instances of "Trustees" to either "Directors" or

The Last Amendment, *continued*

"Officers and Directors", as appropriate; but just to be on the safe side, we decided that we should include this word in the By-Laws, even if only once. So we modified the parenthetical expression in the first sentence of Section 4.8.1 (Executive Board), changing it from "(also known as the Board of Directors, or BOD)" to "(also known as the Board of Trustees, Board of Directors, and/or BOD)". That put us at sixteen.

The seventeenth was essentially "overhead". Following our previously established pattern, we stuck a "(Revised May 2009)" tag in front of each Section that we changed; and put "(Added May 2009)" tags at the start of the two new ones. However, we *also* had to include one further "(Revised May 2009)" tag at the *top* of the document, with all the other, older "(Revised...)" tags. To fulfill *that* requirement, we had to create our last amendment.

Appendix I: Conspiracy Theory

So, how did this whole thing get started? Some time before October 25th, 2007, Bruce Arnold proposed an amendment to the By-Laws, to allow SIG

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Laws. SIG (or Special Interest Group) is just a nickname). Immediately, panic ensued. "What if they staged a Coup?" Instead of adopting a perfectly valid political position and introducing their own amendment to repeal that provision, opposition nit-pickers resorted to sneaky back-door tactics; using loopholes to deny the Subgroup Chairmen their votes. (Unfortunately, there were enough ambiguities in the By-Laws to make this strategy possible). This blatant conspiracy to commit injustice continued for *seventeen* years, until in 2008 our By-Laws Revision Committee closed those loopholes at last. Finally, justice was done!

That's only a short synopsis, taken from *The Historical Record* (as mentioned above, my December 2008 article); but six months ago when I wrote that article, I wasn't aware that there had also been a counter-conspiracy in place. The SIG Leaders *have*, in fact, launched a Coup; and they've *almost won!* Take a look at the composition of our Executive Board: Our President (Mike Redlich) is also a SIG Leader. Our Past President (Evan Williams) is also a SIG Leader. Three of our

Leaders to vote at Executive Board meetings. (That's as close as I can get to a point of origin. It was the deadline for the November 2007 newsletter, where Bruce's proposal was first officially recorded; but as you'll soon see, the sinister, twisted roots of this dark, insidious conspiracy stretch back in time a *whole lot* further). When the subject came up at the December 7th, 2007 Annual Meeting, it quickly became apparent that *nobody* then present knew *anything* about the current By-Laws. So Bruce's amendment was tabled pending further study; and on January 2nd 2008 (at the next Board Meeting), the By-Laws Revision Committee was formed to conduct a thorough investigation.

Here's what our Committee's research found: After being amended in February 1991, our By-Laws (as published in the February 1991 issue of our newsletter) specified that Subgroup Chairmen were also considered to be "*indirectly* elected members of the Executive Board". They were given voting rights almost equal to the Officers and Directors, who were "directly elected members of the Executive Board". (Subgroup is the official term as defined in the By-

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Directors (Gregg McCarthy, David McRitchie and John Raff) are also SIG Leaders. To make up their own quorum, they need only *one* more SIG Leader to be elected or appointed as either a Director or an Officer. Then, who knows what hideous misdeeds they'll commit? Everybody run! *It's the end of the world!!!*

OK, stop panicking. As Orson Welles said in 1938; "I was only kidding".

Appendix II: Last Words

That's just about it. Though actually there are *two* things that still bother me; places where I think we could maybe do better (one in the Constitution and one in the By-Laws). However, I don't *dare* bring them up before the Board of Directors. (I have absolutely *no* desire to be chased out of town by a pitchfork-and-torch bearing mob). As a playwright (whose name I didn't catch) once said about small lingering dissatisfactions with some of her previous works (on a PBS "arts" show whose name I didn't catch, either); "At some point, you just have to let them go".

So I'll let *you* go, too.

About the Constitution

At one of our Board Meetings, Bill Farrell said that a Constitution describes “what” a corporation is going to do, and its By-Laws describe “how” the corporation is going to do it. Our 2008 By-Laws Revision Committee interpreted that statement to mean that while our By-Laws should always be “up to the minute”, our Constitution could have more of a “timeless” feel to it; providing a bridge between the intentions of the club's founders thirty-four years ago and the realities of conditions as they stand today. To that end, we decided to bring our new 2008 Constitution closer in “flavor” to the original 1976 document by restoring language from the original version that had been removed during succeeding amendments. In addition, as our Committee's investigation progressed, we found several provisions of the 2001 Constitution that directly contradicted equivalent provisions of the 2001 By-Laws. So we removed those incompatibilities. In our opinion, we successfully accomplished our goals (and also corrected 35 typographical errors).

To resolve those Constitution/By-Laws conflicts,

we took Article III, Section I as our precedent. There, rather than listing various qualifications for membership, the authors of the original Constitution simply stated that the Executive Board should obtain their selection criteria from the ACGNJ By-Laws. Therefore, when revising Articles V and VI, we deleted specific requirements and threw control back to the By-Laws in a similar fashion. Then, we added language designed (hopefully) to insure that such conflicts would not happen again. Also, in Article IV, we arranged for a sense of “historic flow”; by purposely leaving *two* Secretaries in Section I, noting the consolidation in Section II, then listing only one Secretary in Section III.

Note that because we were re-inserting original words that had previously been deleted, we were a bit liberal about how much a paragraph would need to change before being given a “(...December 2008)” tag. Though we *did*, in fact, make changes to *all* eleven Sections of the 2001 Constitution, we ultimately determined that *six* of those Sections had basically received only “corrections of a typographical nature”, and thus had *not* been amended enough to warrant such a tag.

Please note that the ACGNJ Constitution was *not* revised in May of 2009. (Only the By-Laws).

Constitution of the Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey

May, 1976

(Revised Spring 1981)

(Revised February 1991)

(Revised December 2001)

(Revised December 2008)

ARTICLE I - NAME

SECTION I.

The name of this non-profit organization shall be:
AMATEUR COMPUTER GROUP OF NEW
JERSEY, INC (ACGNJ).

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

SECTION I.

The purpose of this organization is to provide and promote the dissemination and exchange of computer-related information of an educational nature to its members having comparable interests in

support of the computer-related arts and sciences.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION I.

Membership will be open to students, individuals, families, clubs, educational institutions, businesses and corporations who have comparable interests in support of the computer-related arts and sciences. Eligibility for membership shall be determined by the Executive Board, who will use the ACGNJ By-Laws as set forth and in effect at the time, as the basis for selection.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

SECTION I.

(Deliberately Not Revised December 2008) The Officers of this organization shall be the President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. These Officers, along with the Directors-at-Large, shall be elected by ballot at the Annual Business Meeting for their term as covered in the By-Laws as set forth. The Executive

Board shall consist of the Officers, the Directors-at-Large, the immediate Past President, the Chairmen of Board recognized Subgroups, and Sol Libes, who shall be a permanent member of the Executive Board.

SECTION II.

(Enacted December 2001, Revised December 2008) The offices of Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary shall be consolidated into the single office of Secretary.

SECTION III.

(Revised December 2008) A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the Vice-President. A vacancy in the office of Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or Director shall be filled by appointment by the President, subject to confirmation by a majority of the remaining directly elected members of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

SECTION I.

The time and place of each succeeding monthly

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determined according to the By-Laws as set forth and in effect at the time. All official business shall be transacted by a majority of all votes cast by the members present making up a quorum.

ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS

SECTION I.

(Revised December 2008) This Constitution may be amended according to the By-Laws as set forth and in effect at the time. However, its structure and contents shall be kept as close as possible to the original ACGNJ Constitution, as it existed when voted upon and passed by a majority of the membership in attendance at the May 2, 1976 General Business Meeting. Should a provision in this Constitution conflict with a provision in the By-Laws as set forth and in effect at the time, the provision in the By-Laws will be considered to have priority. As soon as possible thereafter, the Executive Board must take action to resolve that conflict by amending either this Constitution or those By-Laws, according to the current procedures as specified in those By-Laws.

meeting shall be decided by the Executive Board.

SECTION II.

The President may, at the President's option, or on the written request of any two members in good standing of ACGNJ, conduct a Business Meeting as part of any monthly meeting. The President shall also have the prerogative to change the date by two weeks before or after the time set for any monthly meeting, should he deem it necessary for a more successful meeting. The membership must be notified of any such agenda or date changes as soon as possible. Final notice should be sent to all members in good standing, preferably ten days prior to the affected meeting.

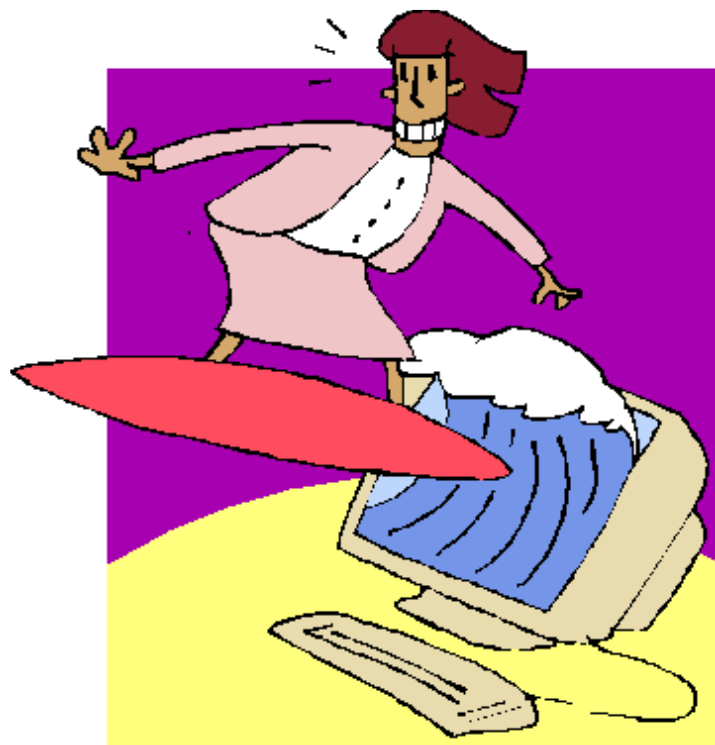
SECTION III.

Special Meetings may be called by the Executive Board. The call of the Special Meeting must state the business to be transacted, and no business shall be transacted except that stated in the call.

SECTION IV.

(Revised December 2008) A quorum shall be

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Have a Wonderful Summer!